

MARCH/APRIL

1988

# The DANGER ZONE

FROM THE GREATER CLEVELAND SINCLAIR TIMEX USERS GROUP



Our President  
Andy Kosiorek



Our New West Side  
Vice president  
Doug Gillespie



Our East Side  
Vice President  
Gene Wilson

We elected a new West side vice president at the March Westside meeting. His name is Doug Gillespie. He has a QL with the Trump card, a printer, a 2068, modem and 2040. He has been a member of our group for 4 years. Our club founder, Dick Sieg, stepped down to be the west side vice president about 2 years ago. He is now getting into more IBM stuff so he decided to step out of office. We elected Doug to fill his shoes. *GOOD LUCK DOUG!!!*

We have TWO meeting every month:

EAST SIDE meeting: First Friday:  
In the Euclidian room at  
Euclid Square Mall (between Babbitt  
and E260th off of 90  
\*\*\*\*\* 7:30pm \*\*\*\*\*

We have TWO BBS's:  
TIMELINES: Open to I/S  
users only. Online 10pm to  
6am EST. 300/1200 Baud,  
8/1/N, Phone: 216-671-6922  
SYSOP: Robert Parish

WEST SIDE meeting: Third Friday:  
In the basement of the Lakewood  
Library. 15425 Detroit Ave.  
\*\*\*\*\* 7:00pm \*\*\*\*\*

CLEVELAND FREE NET: Open to  
all types of computers. We  
have a Special Interest  
Group on this board. Phone:  
216-368-3888, 24 hours,  
300/1200/2400 Baud.

PLEASE ATTEND!!!

\*\*\*\*\*  
TIMEX/SINCLAIR NEWS & RESOURCES  
\*\*\*\*\*  
news/rumors  
hardware software literature  
Apr. 1988 by Andy Kosiorek  
announcing.....

THE Timex/Sinclair-Amstrad  
Computer Users  
1988 MIDWEST Regional Conference  
August 26 & 27, 1988  
Cleveland, Ohio

\*\*\*\*\*  
The Greater Cleveland Sinclair  
Users Group will host the third  
annual MIDWEST Timex-Sinclair-  
Amstrad gathering on Saturday  
and Sunday, August 26 & 27, 1988

Our theme for this event is;  
"Users - learning from other  
Users" --- of ZXs, 2068s,  
Spectrums, QLs, and Amstrads.

Displays, demonstrations, and  
presentations by individuals,  
user groups, software authors,  
hardware developers, and vendors  
will be emphasized.

The assembly will be held at the  
"Beck Center for the Arts," a  
cultural arts center in Lakewood  
Ohio, a western suburb of  
Cleveland. This is not a hotel  
site, attendees will need their  
own in town auto transportation.

We are now seeking volunteers  
for seminar type presentations,  
and are asking users groups and  
vendors to participate in  
co-sponsoring this event. For  
further details on this please  
contact Andy Kosiorek or Tom  
Simon c/o the Cleveland  
Sinclair Sinclair Users Group.

Reserve the dates on your  
calender now!

Additional details will be  
posted here as plans are  
developed.

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Other T/S Events:

The Florida Show, held on March  
5th and 6th had an attendance of  
about 250. From what I hear most  
of the attendees were from the  
Florida and vicinity area.

There is also a show planned on  
the northwest coast the first  
weekend of August. Because of  
the great distance between the  
NW and Ohio, we do not see any  
major conflicts between their  
event and ours.

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\*\*\*\*\*  
TIMEX/SINCLAIR NEWS & RESOURCES  
\*\*\*\*\*  
news/rumors  
hardware software literature  
Apr. 1988 by Andy Kosiorek  
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Spectrum & Disk Drives

Last year Amstrad introduced  
the Spectrum +3 with a built in  
3" disk drive. From what I've  
seen in the British magazines a  
limited amount of software is  
now available on the 3" format.

Until recently owners of the  
earlier versions of the Spectrum  
only had one aftermarket disk  
system, the Disciple, to buy.  
Now another system, the "Plus D"  
made by Miles Gordon Technology  
of Cambridge is available. The  
systems controller will run a  
double sided 3.5 or 5.25 drive.  
The controller has a snapshot  
save feature, and a built in  
printer interface. The command  
syntax is reported to be very  
similar to the microdrive inter-  
face one. The controller appears  
to be powered from the Spectrums  
bus, so a separate PS will be  
required for the drives. The  
best news is the price -£50.

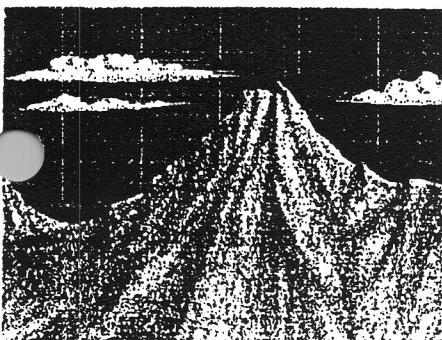
ANOTHER SPECTRUM CLONE?

From the British point of  
view, the 2068, is a Spectrum  
clone. Timex accomplished this by  
obtaining the rights to use the  
Sinclair "basic". From what  
limited info I have, no one else  
legally has the rights, except  
Amstrad, who bought the line  
from Clive. The March issue of  
Sinclair User reports that now  
Miles Gordon, the same Company  
that makes the disk drive system  
described above, is developing a  
Spectrum clone. How they will do  
it without Spectrum basic isn't  
explained, but the report states  
that it will have 256K, an  
enhanced color display, and run  
at 6 MHz. With a Z80B CPU, it is  
to be priced at about £100.00.

On Z80's.....

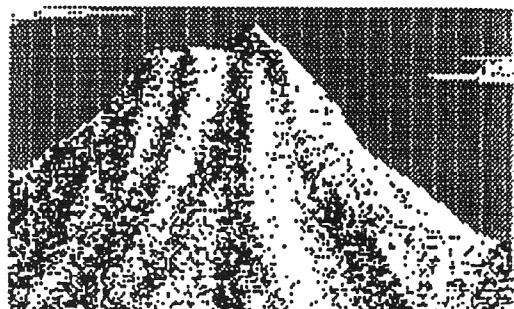
Heres an item from the March  
QZX Newsletter on the Z80 CPU in  
the T/S 1000. The original Z80  
had 8 10K pull-up resistors, R38  
to R42. The Z80A and Z80B do not  
require them, and they may cause  
problems. The suggestion is to  
remove them. The Zilog manual  
makes no mention of their being  
required on the A and B version.  
Can anyone verify this?

\*\*\*\*\*



## Q.L Stories from the mountain tops

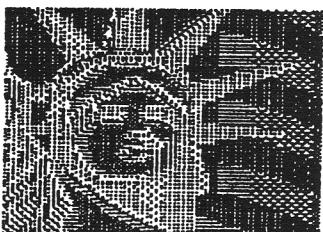
by Chris Raynak



### Hello all!

Well, it has been a LONG time since I have tried to do anything like this, so I hope you will all bear with me. If seems once a computer hobbyist, always a computer hobbyist. I decided to take some of my spare time off from job hunting to let you know about some of the things that have been brought to my attention concerning the QL.

If has been over half a year since the JSU Bulletin Board went offline, yet I still get calls from users concerning the machine which I am sorry to say has spent most of it's time in my closet! The funny thing of it is, the more calls I get the more I think of pulling it out and using it! The information here came from those calls.

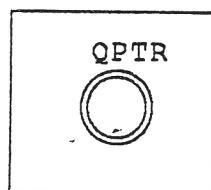


### Who? Who?

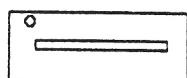
I think just about all QL users will be interested in this first item. How many times have you loaded in a QL program, one after the other, only to find that on the 3rd or 4th program that your machine locks up? This is caused by the used portions of memory that are not released after a program is cleared. The QL anticipates that you will want to load in the same program again, and therefore reserves the program in the "slave blocks" of memory. After you load so many programs, your system simply runs out of memory! The cure for this is the new MG ROM. It is supposed to have ALL the QL ROM bugs worked out.(yes folks, that means the ERROR\_ commands should work), as well as a number of other things. It INCLUDES the super toolkit ROM routines as well. It will contain the software to run the soon to be released 20 & 40 MEG hard drive (the one that won't break your wallet) by CST in April. Rumor also has it that this Eprom will run most of the Thor software since the Eprom is basically the same as that of the Thor. Price is tentatively set at \$34.00. Watch for it! (IE Sharps).

600020

Yes, its true. The new co-processor board is soon to be released as well. This will let your QL screen at better than 10 MHz, and increase your memory access!



Qjump has done it again with its new QPTR program. With it, anyone can do windowing with ease. It lets you modify Qjump's QRAM display. The routines are in MC and are also listed in BASIC for your own modification.



J&B Electronics in Computer Shopper is selling 3.5" drives, single sided 400K for \$29.00. A real deal if you know someone in the U.K. that you want to exchange programs with, without the expense of microwafers.....

CR

Our exhibit at the Quaker Square Computer show in Akron on March 19th and 20th was again rewarding. We were able to show that we were still alive and make contact with several potential members. Thanks to Toby Radloff, Dave Hoshor and Gene Wilson for their help.

We have gotten a lot of mail most of which I have been able to answer. Here is a question from Calvin Walker, PO Box 5003, Mississippi State, Ms., 39762. He is trying to get the screen copy command for his A+J interface on a 2068 to work with his NEC PR-103A printer. Can anyone out there help? If you can write directly to Calvin.

David Sullivan writes that he is starting a QL users group. He says he is a computer technician who serviced QL's. He hopes that his group would become a vehicle to disseminate information and software at the most reasonable cost (postage and materials). If you are interested write to David at PO BOX 353, Gilsum, NH, 03442.

Another user's group for QL owners is the QUANTA group from England. They publish an excellent newsletter and have an extensive library. They will take Mastercharge and VISA for the dues which are about thirty-one dollars depending upon how poorly the dollar is doing against the pound. If you are interested write to Brian Pain, 24 Oxford St., Steny Stratford, Milton Keynes, MK11 1JU, England.

Sharp's has a book titled 'Inside QDOS' for \$39.95 which is a disassembly of the QL's JS ROM with notations. They also have the MG ROM for the QL for \$ 39.95. Write to Sharp's at Rt. 10, Box 459, Mechanicsville, Va., 23111.

About December we received word about Matt Zenkar's 512k zero wait state expansion ram for the QL. The board itself is extremely well made and nicely put together, the ram is of the style currently being used on PC's. It comes with a full feed through connector and come with a black anodized aluminum cover. Zenkar uses a programmable logic array to simplify the decoding of memory. The board runs on the hot side and in fact is as hot as or more so than the microdrives. The tab on the voltage regulator measured at 145 F. while the regulator on the microdrives ran at 118 F. This is a good indication that some external heatsinking is needed. If the board were modified it might not be removable but this may not be important relative to the amount of heat generated. Measuring power dissipation, the ram on the Zenkar board dissipates about half as much power as the QL regulator(.670 amp). There is a problem of crashing when used with certain QL's, the problem identified by Zenkar is that the ram inside the QL may be marginal. This may in fact be so and

would explain why even some unmodified QL's crash. The heat and crashing are mentioned in an article in this month's QL World. Zenkar's solution then, is to replace the RAM in the QL with Micron Technology RAM chips which do not crash when his board is used. Of the two QL's used with his board one worked and the other didn't. There is a filter cap on the 5 volt line rated at 6.3 volts which may be prone to failure in the future, although Zenkar offers a five year warranty, some modification may be desirable. The Zenkar board is small enough to fit inside the QL and this fits the bill for those who want a ram expansion without the disk drive. The price is \$160. Overall the board is well made but the problem with the heat is one that could definitely be improved and there is a certain random factor in that any particular machine that it is used on may or may not be compatible without modification.

For those of you have access to PC's and have a Sinclair disk system there is a program that you may be interested in. Called COPYIIPC, this program is able to duplicate any disk in any format. The only catch is that you must have the same type of drive that the disk is copied onto (ie. 3 1/2", 5 1/4" 40 or 80 track). This copy program also comes in a board version which will even copy intentional bad sectors used sometimes as part of copy protection schemes. I used this program to copy Oliger format disks and they ran perfectly.

About two issues ago I made a mistake in saying Dave Franson's Extended Paint program was the only one which used the extended color mode of the 2068. Stan Lemke's art program also supports the 2068's extended mode. Stan is the fellow who made the excellent adaptation of the RLE conversion program which appeared in Time Designs.

We don't want to sound like a broken record but the Ramtop needs your contributions. Our newsletter is only as good as we make it. Please contribute with your ideas articles, reviews and programs.

Dave Hoshor wrote to Digital Precision about their Digital C program and what follows here is the substance of their reply. Digital C is a smaller, simpler implementation of C based on Small C. As such it does not handle structures, type definitions and longs. This program uses QDOS type floats only. Some superbasic keywords have been included which do not have standard C equivalents eg. scroll,cls, pen etc. Digital C does support inter-process pipes, but needs toolkit commands to execute the task. Digital C is a two stage program compile is followed by a generate and link step without the use of an assembler. The maximum code size that can be generated is 64k which they believe is useful for small tools. Digital Precision points out that it is indeed a smaller than the Metacompco version and that it costs less than Metacompco's version.

## MARCH/APRIL EDITORIAL

For those of you who read BYTES here is some bad news. The magazine is undergoing a redesign and a change in its focus. They are now targeting their market to middle level managers who are in charge of purchasing computers for corporate clients. They want to shed any sort of a hacker "image". While there generally was not a whole lot in the magazine for us occasionally there were some items of technical interest.

Jim Lewis provides this note to QL users regarding crashes and RAM problems. The 7805 voltage regulator mounted on the heatsink behind the microdrives can cause the QL to crash if the voltage gets too low. He believes that the RAM chips will not work properly with less than 4.75 volts. I checked my QL's 7805 and found it was putting out about 4.97 volts which under prolonged operation may drop lower. I purchased several of the voltage regulators and found that the most expensive put out 4.82 volts and the cheapest one 4.97 volts. Apparently price is not an indication of quality. Another obvious tip is to remove the microdrive cover on the right hand side of the QL to improve air circulation.

For those who really want to juice up their machines, Neville Smith is providing a transputer interface for the QL for '120. This does not include the transputer board which must be purchased separately. You might ask what exactly is a transputer? Well it essentially is a 32 bit RISC parallel processor. It contains about 4K of onboard RAM and is multitasking. The transputer chip runs at a high clock speed (15-20 mhz.) and is able to process about 10 MIPS (million instructions per second) 20 mhz. There are several different transputer chips available from INMOS and they are not cheap. Inmos has developed a language called OCCAM to exploit the potential of their chip. So what you have with the QL then is the QL acting as a terminal and the transputer board doing most of the work with the interface taking care of the hook up. This puts you pretty close to the cutting edge of the technology. Atari has only hinted at a transputer based machine, tentatively called the Abaq. The transputer board will run you about '400 plus the cost of the interface. What you will get is a development machine with very little software available but a hot piece of hardware. Mr. Smith also plans to make a hard drive interface for the QL that should cost about '200. For further information write to Neville Smith, 17 Clarence Road, Stoney Stratford, Milton Keynes, MK11 1JE, United Kingdom.

I haven't had the time to use it as much as I would have liked but I enjoyed using Clifford and Grey's Specterm 64. First I found that it was compatible with SPDDOS on the 2068, not overwriting any part of the operating system. Second it was easy to use, though the directions were a bit hard to read and reminded me of one of those famous LISP newsletters that would not be easy on the eyes. However the documentation seems to all be there with addresses and other technical information. Specterm 64 is set up with various basic front ends, depending upon what system you have or what type of hardware you want to use. It is possible to write your own and C & G apparently encourage this. One thing I did notice was that the code for the 64 column mode didn't seem quite robust enough. It may be possible to modify this as was done with MSCRIP. I have heard of problems with headers on files associated with downloading. I hope to report on this as I get more experience with the program.

A big HOWDY to all! I hope you are well. The weather here is starting to look like there may really be a spring after all! This will mean SPRING CLEANING and the dreaded HOUSE MAINTANCE! This is when K mart gets rich selling all of us paint, brushes, rollers, all the dreaded lawn stuff and you name it. Then again you can start getting out the expensive "toys" you got for the holidays now that summer is close by. My big toy was a camcorder. Most of you have seen me goofing with it at the meetings. Well, now that the weather will be getting warmer, I hope to learn to use it better. It also opens up a rather unexplored area in the way of vidio demos. Many of you have seen the demo I did on the VIDEO DIGITIZER. It was a poor first attempt. I hope to have one about the OLIGER DISK SYSTEM soon.

Our COMPUTER CONFERENCE is a sure thing! It will be the last week end in August. There has been some static from some people out west about the time we picked. Let's face it gang, how many of you from this area are going to drive or fly out west! I venture to say under 12! I feel that we better quit the petty squabbles and JOIN TOGETHER! I'm sure that you will agree that the more exposure, information, and products that are made available for our computers the longer we will stay interested in them and be able to keep them productive and entertaining. We plan to have many user groups attend as well as vendors, and seminars. We also hope to have vidio demos and copies of our library tape. I feel that we can also have an area set aside for swapping used equipment also. More on this as the time grows nearer. We don't want to step on any toes but at the same time, we feel that there is a need for a gathering of the minds in our area too!

Have any of you wanted an RS-232 I/O for your 2068? I know I have. So far, it would cost you over \$70 to \$80 or more to have it. I got a letter from ED GREY in California telling me that he now has the Z-S I/O serial board will now be sold as a "bare board". For a time, he will ship a 2050 modem board with it that has most of the parts you need for the Z-SIO. The whole thing is \$27.00 including S&H. This is a GOOD DEAL! You can then use a 1200 BAUD modem! (with Specterm 64). Send to: ED GREY Enterprises, 3414 W. 78th place, Los Angeles, CA, 90043.

I have a couple of sad things to announce. First, I recently found out that one of our members, CLARENCE LUCHT passed away. I had wondered why I had not heard from him in quite a while so I tried calling him and found the phone disconnected. Upon further investigation I found out that he died two weeks before Christmas. He was an avid Sinclair user. He had a QL (which he sold) and 2 2068s. I checked around and found that his niece lives in North Olmsted. I talked to her and expressed my condolences. She told me that she had the 2068 and printer (SG-10) and would like to know how to use it. I am sending her a RAMTOP and hope she can come to a meeting. If you would like to send a card, Mail it to: Ann Marie Conray, 29543 Lorain Rd, North Olmsted, OH, 44070. I know that she will appreciate it.

The next sad news is that DICK SIEG, the founder of our user group, is in the hospital with kidney problems. I talked to him and he is doing better and plans to get "kicked out" by 3/29. Dick, Hope you are back to your good natured self soon!

# USING QL C

by DAVID HOSHOR

## PART ONE: OPENING DEVICES

The Metacomco QL C manual is silent on how to open the various devices on the QL. The following program shows how to open the serial port on the QL. Just replace the word "ser" with "scr", "con", or "mdv2\_test" to see how easy it is to open the various devices of the QL. Instead of using the default screen when you open a screen use different dimensions by substituting "scr" with "scr\_200x40a200x70". The dimensions have the same meaning as with SuperBASIC. See the Devices section of the Concepts portion of the QL Manual.

```
/*
 * Sample program to print to the serial port using QL C
 *
 * Points out the difficulty of using buffered file I/O.
 * Buffer is automatically assigned when you use "fopen()".
 * Nothing is sent to the printer until the buffer is full
 * or the program ends, flushing the buffer. Use the QL C
 * function "setnbf()" to allow unbuffered output. Remove
 * comments around setnbf line to see the difference.
 *
 * The same problem can happen if you use screen, "scr", output.
 * Try replacing the word "ser" in the fopen function with "scr"
 *
 */
#include "flp1_stdio_h"

main()
{
    FILE *out;

    if ((out = fopen("ser", "w")) == NULL) /* open for write */
    {
        printf("The serial port won't open\n");
        exit(1);
    }

    /* setnbf(out); */ /* remove comments to see effect of setnbf */

    /* Send stuff to the printer */

    fprintf(out, "This is a test\n");

    /* Print a message to press a key. Getchar will keep waiting until */
    /* a key is pressed. */

    printf("Stuff has been sent to the printer. It's sitting in a buffer\n");
    printf("Please press a key.\n");
    getchar();

    fclose(out);
}
```

# USING QL C

by DAVID HOSHOR

## PART TWO: USING QDOS WITH C

The C programming language has no commands for doing graphic or sound functions. In order to make the language as general as possible, it is assumed that the programmer will write his own routines to do these things - if he feels he needs them. Metacomco's version of C for the QL has almost no graphic routines. The sole exceptions are `sd_pos` and `sd_pixp`, used for positioning the cursor at given character positions (`sd_pos`), or pixel position (`sd_pixp`). If these functions aren't explained in your QL C manual, you have a first edition manual. Write Metacomco to get the most recent edition.

Fortunately, Metacomco did see fit to include a method of accessing QDOS through QL C. This is done with the `qdos1`, `qdos2`, and `qdos3` functions. Using them, you can do such things as change paper and ink color, clear a window, draw borders, etc. I have created a small program using five of these QDOS functions to pretty up your programs. Once you have seen how easy it is to use the `qdos` functions, you'll probably want to add these routines to your personal library of C routines.

```
/*
 * Mini library of QDOS functions for use with QL C. Illustrates the use
 * of qdos function call. See "The Sinclair QDOS Companion" by Andrew
 * Pennell or "QL Technical Guide" by Tony Tebby and David Karlin for
 * additional QDOS traps that you can call with QL C.
 */

#include "flp1_qdos_h" /* N.B. I have changed my version of qdos_h to type */
/* define REGS. If you haven't, replace all "REGS" */
/* in the functions with "struct REGS". */
#include "flp1_stdio_h"

main()
{
    FILE *window;
    char string[90];
    long t1,t2;

    window = fopen("scr","w");
    setnbf(window);

    RESIZE(stdin,2,5,512,256,0,0); /* resize the standard console */
    CLS(stdin);
    BEEP(5000,2);
    RESIZE(window,4,2,492,80,10,170);

    TIME(&t1);
    printf("Enter a line of text. You can use left and right arrows\n");
    printf("and delete characters in the line.\n");
    INPUT(string,sizeof(string)-1,stdin);
    TIME(&t2);

    fprintf(window,"%s\n",string);
    fprintf(window,"You used %ld seconds to type the line\n",t2-t1);
    beep(10000,10);
    fclose(window);
}
```

```

*****      CLS *****
CLS(window)      /* Pass cls a window to clear. Returns error code. */
FILE *window;
{
    REGS inregs, outregs;

    inregs.A0 = (char *)fgetchid(window);
    inregs.D3 = -1;                                /* timeout */
    inregs.D0 = 0x20;                               /* cls trap */
    return(qdos3(&inregs,&outregs));               /* return error code if any */
}

*****      INPUT *****
INPUT(string,strsize,file)                      /* Works like fgets but allows you to */
                                                /* move around in a line with cursor */
                                                /* keys and delete characters. */
char     *string;
int      strsize;
FILE    *file;
{
    REGS inregs, outregs;

    inregs.D0 = 4;        /* io.edlin */
    inregs.D1 = 0;        /* cursor at 0, line length 0 */
    inregs.D2 = strsize;  /* the size of string */
    inregs.D3 = -1;       /* time out */
    inregs.A0 = (char *)fgetchid(file); /* input channel */
    inregs.A1 = string; /* pointer to cursor position */

    qdos3(&inregs,&outregs);
    *(outregs.A1 - 1) = '\0';
}

*****      RESIZE *****
/* Resize an open screen channel. Only works with scr or con devices */
RESIZE(f,bc,b,w,h,x,y) /* f is file pointer, bc, border color, border width */
                        /* w,h,x,y; the width, height, and x,y origin */
FILE *f;
int bc,b,w,h,x,y;
{
    short dims[4];
    REGS inregs, outregs;

    dims[0] = (short)w;
    dims[1] = (short)h;
    dims[2] = (short)x;
    dims[3] = (short)y;

    inregs.D0 = 0xd;      /* sd.wdef */
    inregs.D1 = bc;
    inregs.D2 = b;
    inregs.D3 = 0;
    inregs.A0 = (char *)fgetchid(f);
    inregs.A1 = (char *)&dims;
    return(qdos3(&inregs,&outregs));
}

```

#### FOR SALE

Craftsman 59 piece tap and die set, brand new, metric. It has 23 taps, 14 1" hex dies, 9 1 7/16" hex dies, 5 screw extractors, adjustable guide die stock for 1" hex dies, adjustable guide die stock for 1 7/16" hex dies, T handle tap and reamer wrench, #4 adjustable tap and reamer wrench, #6 adjustable tap and reamer wrench, screw pitch gauge, screw driver, sturdy plastic case for \$150. That's 10% less than in the catalog, and it's brand new. This is a top quality set with lifetime guarantee. If anything breaks just take it back to Sears and they will replace it free. Call Doug Gillespie 884-8835, or write 5860 Calamie Dr, Parma Hts, Ohio 44130. Shipping is available.

```

***** TIME *****

TIME(t)
long *t;
{
    REGS inregs, outregs;
    inregs.D0 = 0x13; /* mt.rdclock */
    qdos1(&inregs, &outregs);
    *t = outregs.D1;
    return(outregs.D1);
}

***** BEEP *****
BEEP(d,p1) /* simplified beep command. needs only duration and pitch */

int d,p1;
{
    static char p[25];
    REGS inregs, outregs;

    p[0] = 10; p[1] = 8; p[2] = 0; p[3] = 0;
    p[4] = p[5] = 0xaa; /* control string */
    p[6] = p1-1; /* pitch 1 */
    p[7] = 0; /* pitch 2 */
    p[8] = p[9] = 0; /* */
    p[10] = (d%0x100); p[11] = (d/0x100); /* duration */
    p[12] = p[13] = 0;
    p[14] = 3;

    inregs.D0 = 0x11; /* mt.ipcom */
    inregs.A3 = p;

    qdos1(&inregs, &outregs);
}

```

NEXT MONTH:

Using the linker

## A 2 0 6 8 Program

```

10 REM *****
15 BIG PRINTER BANNER PROGRAM
20 REM *****
25 LPRINT CHR$(27);CHR$(27);"A";
CHR$(27);CHR$ 5
30 POKE 60137,65: REM This is
the character code of the
character you want to use in m
aking your banner. 183 is box-
like character on my printer.
40 DIM a$(5120): REM The giant
letter will be held in a$.
50 INPUT "Enter your message:
"; b$: REM You are prompted for
your message.
60 LET b$=b$+CHR$ 255: REM
The character 255 will be the
sentinel value to mark the end
of the message.
70 FOR n=1 TO LEN b$: POKE 639
99+n, CODE b$(n): NEXT n: REM POK
E the string into high memory.
80 LET a$(1)=CHR$ USR 80000:
REM This call puts the enlarged
letter into a$

```

90 IF CODE a\$(1)<>255 THEN LPR  
INT a\$: GO TO 80: REM The giant  
letter in a\$ is printed unless  
the sentinel value is detected.  
100 FOR n=60133 TO 60146: POKE  
n,0: NEXT n: GO TO 4000: REM The  
machine language routine varia  
bles are cleared and the print  
er channel is closed. You may h  
ave to use a different routi  
ne to deselect your print  
er.

1000 DATA 033,000,250,237,091,  
229,234,025,126,254,255,032,004,  
006,000,079,201,019,235,034,229,  
234,033,000,000,111,041,041,041,  
042,054,092,025,017,241,234,  
006,008,126,018,035,027,016,250,  
042,077,092,034,231,234,006,008,  
197,033,234,234,006,008,205,172,  
234,035,016,250,205,204,234,193,  
016,238,042,077,092,078,201,229,  
197,237,091,231,234,058,233,234,  
203,006,056,002,062,032,235,001,  
009,000,229,209,019,119,237,176,  
237,083,231,234,193,225,201,229,  
197,042,231,234,229,017,080,000,  
167,237,082,209,001,048,002,237,  
176,237,083,231,234,193,225,201,  
000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,  
000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000
1010 RESTORE : FOR N=60000 TO 60
146: READ A: POKE N,A: NEXT N: G
O TO 10
2000 SAVE "/big" LINE 1000

Please note: This program uses the M/C for the TASMAN printer interface. You must add the code and modify the program to load the code and initialize it. (or modify for a different interface) Your printer must be set to CR/LF after each line.

# PLEASE READ THIS!!!

Subj : FCC Proposal

From Pg. 6 of the Wall Street Journal for 17 March 1988.

## FCC SCRAPS PLAN TO CHARGE FOR COMPUTER ACCESS TO PHONE SYSTEMS, SOURCES SAY

WASHINGTON- The Federal Communications Commission has quietly decided to scrap its plan to sharply increase telephone rates for computer users, agency and congressional sources said.

Last week, the agency informed important lawmakers that it wouldn't go ahead with its plan to assess so-called access charges of as much as \$5.50 per hour per user to hook up computer-communication networks to local telephone systems. An FCC official described the decision as a tactical move to placate opposition from Congress and computer users.

"They got the message loud and clear from Congress that this plan was a political and policy loser", said a House staffer who was informed of the FCC decision.

The FCC's about-face is a big victory for information service companies, who have contended that steep access charges would have driven them out of business by making their services too expensive. Currently, computer-communications networks are exempt from those access charges. Computer users around the country deluged the FCC with about 10,000 letters opposing access fees, the most letters the agency has ever gotten on a telephone issue.

The decision to drop the proposal was made by FCC Chairman Dennis Patrick and the common-carrier bureau of the agency, the sources said. Mr. Patrick, whose office wouldn't comment on the decision formally needs the vote of at least one of the agency's other two members to terminate a proposal. But in practice, he can act unilaterally because, as chairman, he controls which proposals can come to a vote.

In any event, FCC Commissioner Patricia Diaz Dennis said she supported the decision to end the access-charge plan. "We've got a lot of things on our plate," she said. That's one that would overcrowd it."

Several agency officials described the FCC's action as a way of patching up its tattered relations with Congress which is still fuming over the FCC's decision to abolish the fairness doctrine.

Last Thursday, [March 10] Rep. Edward Markey (D., Mass.), chairman of the House telecommunications sub-committee, said he would introduce legislation to kill the access charge, even though agency officials said they had assured the congressman's staff that the FCC itself would kill the plan. A Markey aide said he was only notified an hour before Rep. Markey was to give a previously scheduled speech on access charges. "We'll closely monitor the commission's future actions to insure that this onerous charge doesn't re-emerge in a new form", Rep. Markey said in a statement yesterday.

Rep. Markey and other lawmakers also still oppose Mr. Patrick's pet plan to radically alter regulation of American Telephone & Telegraph Co.

FCC and congressional sources said the agency would proceed, but slowly, with a separate plan to assess charges of about \$4.50 per hour per user to hook up private telephone networks to local telephone systems.

The FCC believes that both computer communications networks and private telephone networks aren't paying their fair share of the cost of local telephone service. But exempting computer communications networks has more appeal politically, because the users are often consumers with limited ability to pay increased charges.

Taken from Hi-Tech Business Machines Bulletin Board.  
(234-1956)

## ABOUT THE 128K SPECTRUM

I was quite excited the day that I received the 128K Spectrum but was soon disappointed. One of the reasons that I had wanted a Spectrum was because I had a number of programs that did not RUN on the 32-48K even with the Spectrum emulator. It is true that in practically every case, these programs ran perfectly on the Spectrum when in 48K mode.

The disappointments came when operating in 128K mode. The first shock came when loading SUPERTEST which was one of the programs that was included in the package deal. It took well over 10 minutes to load this program! "No Matter", I thought, I'll put it on a micro-drive cartridge. So I hooked up the Microdrive and the Multiface, which is the latest 128 version, but this did NOT solve the problem! With the aid of the Multiface I have been able to format a cartridge to over 100K, but that wasn't enough. I had the same problem with other 128K programs such as Little Computer People. Shorter programs such as Never Ending Story (128K version) saved to cartridge without difficulty. I resigned myself to the fact that if I wanted to use the long programs that I was going to have to wait while they loaded from cassette.

However, a friend in England helped me out of this dilemma! He suggested that I use two cartridges! It seems that for these long programs, the Multisave 128 is a bit different than the regular version for the 48K machine. In that case, the program was saved in 4 sections. With the 128 version the sections are doubled, with 2 basic section right in the middle. The trick is to save up to that section on one cartridge, then switch cartridges and record the balance on another cartridge. Of course, you then must write a loader and add it to cartridge 1 so that after that cartridge is loaded it will pause and prompt you to change cartridges. This works! The Microdrive is a little sluggish, it doesn't have the speed it does on the 48K machine, but that is a small price to pay.

With that problem solved, I had more interest and have been devoting more time to the Spectrum+ and am quite happy with it. My life would be complete if I could use the Oliger disk system with it..... In appearance, the Spectrum 128 resembles the QL in that it is black and has the same keyboard. It is operable in 48K mode or 128K mode. When in the latter mode you have a Randoisk at your disposal, but after using the Sinclair Basic's tokens for some years it is difficult getting used to typing the keywords in full when in 128K mode.

The music on the Spectrum 128 is superb. You have but to listen to the demos that accompany the 128K version of the Music Box, to realize this. If you should have the opportunity, be sure to listen to 'When The Saints Come Marching In'.

All in all this is worth having and I am glad that I made the investment.

We will no longer dub copies of the Library Tape at the East or West side meetings. Also there will be no more mailed out. You will be able to borrow tapes from the Library to use. They will be available at the Westside meeting from Dale Senkovic and from Dean Miller at the Eastside meeting. Only 2 tapes can be taken at once, and should be returned by the next meeting. If you do not return tapes no more will be loaned out to you. If you have tapes to donate to the Library please see Dale or Dean at the meetings.

TS/1000 AND TS/1500

SPECTRUM ROM

SCRABBLE  
COMBINATION LOCK

SPECTRUM SELECT  
DEVELOPMENT  
HEADMASTER  
NOISE

PC/8300

ZX DESIGNER  
LIGHT SCREEN  
MUSIC MAKER  
JPCCLONE  
FILECOPY3  
FRED  
TRASHMAN  
BUGABOO

QUIZ  
CIPHER  
CANNON  
TREK

BASIC MUSIC MAKER  
PASCAL AND TURTLE GRAPHICS  
MONITOR 48K  
ZEUS/ROMCOMP  
UTILITIES  
SPECTRUM MACRO ASS.  
SPECTRUM MONITORS  
MACRO ASSEMBLER  
FILECOPY3/SPECFORTH  
TEXT FILES FOR LETTERITER  
VER. S2.0 (60 MINUTE)

TS/2068

QL PROGRAMS

MTERM\_MCI  
FILECOPY3  
TASWORD II  
TASWORD TUTOR  
SEND\_VARS(MODEM UTILITY)  
CODEMASTER  
KEYBOARD TUTORIAL  
HEADMASTER  
PIMANIA  
ROM COMP. COMPARE  
ZEUS

-0-

## THE NORTH COAST COMPUTER FAIR

The Fair will be at Euclid Square Mall. Dates will be October 1st & 2nd. The dates have been moved up one week. Letters announcing the Fair have been sent to all those who participated last year. Response to the invitations must be made by May 31st. This gives users groups time to consider their plans. If any group has not received a letter and wishes to participate, please contact MAX SHOENFELD: 216-371-1096

This Fair is open to ALL types of computers.

Max Shoenfeld

If you would like to subscribe to the RAMTOP please fill out this form and send it to the listed address along with a check for: \$15/Year or \$7.50/ 6 mo. to become a member of our Group (Attend meetings, use library tapes Ect.) Please make checks payable to the RAMTOP! (The phone # is only for our records!) This INCLUDES usage of our TIMELINES BBS! (216-671-6922, 8-N-1) Times of usage are 10PM to 6AM (EST) 7 days a week.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*Please print! Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 1 year \_\_\_\_\_ / 6 months \_\_\_\_\_ \*

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\*NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ \*

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\*STREET: \_\_\_\_\_ We need your phone # \*

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\*CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ \*

\*

\*Type of computer(s) and peripheral(s) you own: \_\_\_\_\_ \*

\*

\*

\* THANK YOU for your interest! Please send to: \*

\*Robert Parish, 12706 Leeila Ave., Cleveland, OH 44135 \*

\*\*\*\*\*

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From:

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FIRST CLASS MAIL